

## Be In Prayer Always!

- **Uvalda, TX** – 19 children, all 4<sup>th</sup> graders, & 2 teachers are dead. 17 are injured following a shooting at Ross Elementary school. The 18-year-old shooter is also dead. He shot & wounded his Grandmother before going to the school. 3 law enforcement officers were injured.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – there have been 213 mass shootings (up 16 from last week's 203) in 2022. The 2022 gun death total is 17,194. This is 854 people higher than last week. 647 deaths & 1,593 of the injured are children (17 or younger). Many states, are weakening gun laws, even though the number of homicides & other gun crimes increases where gun laws are weakened. In places like Ohio, where laws have been changed to make purchasing & carrying a gun easy, police say they now assume everyone has a gun. The ramifications of that are frightening. There are 393 million civilian owned guns in the U.S. – 120 guns for every 100 people. In 2020, firearms became the leading cause of death for children and adolescents in this country, surpassing motor vehicle crashes, according to *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Pray for the victims. . . – but if we value life, we must find a way to change our gun culture and stop this.
- **Ukraine:** Pray for those living in Ukraine with the daily bombardment, hunger, thirst, fear, danger, & the destruction of their world all around them. More than 5.5 million Ukrainians have fled the country. Pray for those who are living as refugees in foreign lands. Pray for those who are so desperate for home they are willing to take the risk of returning to Ukraine even as the war continues. Mass graves & unburied bodies are being found in areas where the Russians have left. Pray for the Ukrainians in Russian held areas who are being taken to Russia, often by force, & often having to endure abusive interrogation in the process. What happens to these people & where they are is not known. In Russia, not everyone supports Putin's war despite an intense pro-war propaganda campaign & government control of the media. Many Russians are willing to run the risks & openly protest the war. 15,000 protestors have been arrested so far.
- **The COVID Pandemic.** The COVID picture continues to be a cause for concern. The number of cases in the U.S. and the world continue to be up. There have been a million COVID deaths in the U.S. & the number continues to grow. There is now an official diagnoses code for long COVID so that it can be tracked. 1 in 4 seniors and 1 in 5 of the rest of the population will have long COVID. More than 76% of those with long COVID did not require hospitalization when they first got the virus, but were experiencing long COVID symptoms after a few months. There is also concern that we are in the early stages of another surge in cases, including growing numbers of hospitalizations. Be in prayer for those who are sick & their caregivers. Pray that we will be able to find & accept a new normal that will let us keep each other as safe as possible & move forward.
- **Countries Dealing with Major Political and/or Economic Upheaval** making life difficult for everyone. Among them are Sri Lanka, Venezuela, the Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Columbia, Syria, Afghanistan. . .
- **Haiti** where gangs are taking over in the capital using horrendous violence.
- **All those dealing with natural disasters. Among them:** In the U.S.; those facing spring storm season; & continuing drought in some of the west & south. The number of fires is growing. New Mexico, Nevada, & California are among the states dealing with several large fast-moving fires. South Africa, Brazil, & India where heavy rain has caused serious flooding. Australia where flooding & wildfires are more frequent, larger, & deadlier due to climate change. Some countries are experiencing drought & food shortages in some areas & flooding in others.



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